



GUIDE TO MAJORS AT YESHIVA: PHILOSOPHY

Choosing a major can be stressful, but it is important to understand that you can pursue almost any career regardless of which major you choose. While there are some exceptions, most entry-level positions simply require general transferable skills—those that can be learned in one setting and applied in another. Relevant experience through internships and activities is generally more important to employers than a major. It is best to choose an area that you find interesting and where you have the ability to do well.

What is the Philosophy Major?

The YU Website states, “Philosophy explores fundamental problems of human existence. Virtually every area of human activity—art, science, religion, politics—generates questions and viewpoints that invite philosophical reflection. Philosophy is a discipline unique in its methods and subject matter. The main areas of philosophy are logic, epistemology (theory of knowledge), metaphysics, and moral and political philosophy.” For more information visit <http://yu.edu/stern/ug/philosophy/courses/>

What can I do with a Major in Philosophy?

Philosophy is excellent preparation for any profession that demands the ability to grasp complex ideas, analyze problems from differing vantage points, and communicate effectively. Thus, a major or minor in philosophy develops skills necessary for the pursuit of a variety of fields, including law, journalism, medicine, computer science, business, and public administration.

Some career options to consider as a philosophy major include:

Business

- Consultant
- Equity Research Analyst
- Financial Analyst
- Human Resources Generalist
- Investment Banker
- Mediator
- Paralegal

Social Service

- Case Worker
- Higher Education Administrator
- Human Rights Advocate
- Legislative Aide
- Nonprofit Administrator

Communications

- Advertising Executive
- Editor/Writer
- Journalist
- Market Researcher
- Public Relations Professional
- Television Producer

Graduate Study Required:

- Lawyer
- Physician
- Professor
- Psychologist
- Social Worker

Skills and Abilities

Through the study of philosophy students develop skills and abilities that are broadly applicable to many fields. The coursework in philosophy trains students to think clearly and concisely about problems and theories. Students of philosophy delve deeply into complex ideas and learn to think critically and precisely. Students learn many transferable skills from the study of philosophy, including:

Analytical

- Analyzing complex ideas
- Thinking critically and rigorously
- Understanding and applying logical reasoning
- Reading analytically

Communication

- Speaking persuasively
- Writing clearly, concisely and persuasively
- Presenting complex concepts and thoughts
- Articulating and defending a position

Research

- Gathering, understanding, and organizing information
- Synthesizing and presenting findings